

Message Text

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJECT: ILO IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCED GENEVA GENERAL
SERVICE SALARY SCALE

REF: STATE 047884

1. ON FEBRUARY 24, THE PROGRAM, FINANCIAL AND ADMINIS-
TRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY DECIDED
TO RECOMMEND THAT THE REDUCED GENERAL SERVICE SALARY
SCALE BE IMPLEMENTED, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1978. A FINAL
DECISION WILL BE MADE BY THE GOVERNING BODY PLENARY
MEETING FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 3, BUT THE COMMITTEE'S
RECOMMENDATION VIRTUALLY ASSURES THAT THE GB WILL
DECIDE THAT ILO MUST CONFORM TO THE COMMON SYSTEM POLICY.

2. THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS TAKEN DESPITE A
RECOMMENDATION BY DG BLANCHARD THAT THE NEW SCALE BE
APPLIED ONLY WITH RESPECT TO NEW EMPLOYEES HIRED ON OR
AFTER APRIL 1. BLANCHARD ATTEMPTED TO JUSTIFY HIS
RECOMMENDATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE NEW SCALE WOULD (1) INVOLVE AN "ENORMOUS" AMOUNT OF
ADMINISTRATIVE WORK WHICH WOULD COST THE ILO \$50,000
OF THE \$100,000 IT COULD EXPECT TO SAVE IN GS SALARIES
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IN THE CURRENT BIENNIUM; AND (2) ADD TO THE EXTREMELY
HEAVY BURDEN THAT THE STAFF IS ALREADY FACING AS A
RESULT OF ILO'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. SPEAKING TO THE
COMMITTEE, A STAFF REPRESENTATIVE CONFIRMED THE STAFF'S
FIRM OPPOSITION TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SCALE.
BOTH THE DG AND THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVE WERE STRONGLY
CRITICAL OF THE ICSC SURVEY.

3. THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION WAS TAKEN AFTER UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES IN FAVOR OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SCALE FOR ALL GS EMPLOYEES. THE POSITION OF THE UK DELEGATE, WHO SPOKE FOR GENEVA GROUP COUNTRIES, WAS FIRMLY SUPPORTED BY G-77 REPRESENTATIVES. THE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WERE SUPPORTED BY THE EMPLOYERS GROUP; HOWEVER, THE WORKERS GROUP WAS OPPOSED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW SCALE.

4. COMMENT: BLANCHARD IS NOT UNHAPPY WITH THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES. THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE TOLD U.S. OBSERVERS THAT THE DG UNWISELY PROMISED STAFF REPRESENTATIVES SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THAT HE WOULD NOT IMPLEMENT THE NEW GS SCALE. THE FIRM DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE TAKES HIM OFF THE HOOK WITHOUT COMPROMISING HIS RELATIONS WITH HIS STAFF. VANDEN HEUVEL

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